

## Message Text

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12

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 /074 W

----- 055418

R 172122Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3240

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PORC, CS

SUBJECT: 1976 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING REQUIREMENT

REF: (A) STATE 45319; (B) 75 SAN JOSE A-20

1. POST REGRETS DELAY RESPONDING TO REFTEL. FOLLOWING  
FULL REPORT BEING TRANSMITTED IN LIEU OF AIRGRAM.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF (B), COSTA RICA HAS BEEN AND  
CONTINUES TO BE EXEMPLARY, BOTH IN LATIN AMERICAN AND  
WORLD CONTEXT, IN THE PROMOTION AND PRACTICE OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS.

3. THE SITUATION AS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1975, IS  
ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. THE POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS REMAINED  
TRANQUIL. THERE HAS BEEN NO OCCASION FOR THE SUSPENSION  
OF BILL OF RIGHTS GUARANTEES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.  
COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE CONTINUED TO DISCHARGE THEIR  
OBLIGATIONS COGNIZANT OF AND WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF BOTH FOREIGNERS AND NATIONALS.

4. DESPITE COSTA RICA'S EXCELLENT REPUTATION AND  
RECORD, THE EMBASSY OCCASIONALLY ENCOUNTERS PROBLEMS  
INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS BEING DETAINED FOR SHORT  
PERIODS (USUALLY LESS THAN 24 HOURS) WITHOUT CLEARLY  
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DEFINED LEGAL CHARGES AND WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO

CONTACT THE EMBASSY. THESE SITUATIONS ARE CONSIDERED  
PRIMARILY THE FAULT OF A MORE RELAXED, LESS ORDERED  
SYSTEM THAN ANY DESIGN BY INDIVIDUALS OR THE AUTHORITIES  
TO DEPRIVE AMERICANS NOR NATIONALS OF THEIR RIGHTS.  
SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS HAVE OCCURRED WHEN AMERICANS HAVE  
BEEN SUSPECTED OF NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS, AND MAY REFLECT  
CONTINUED CONCERN WITH THIS PROBLEM HERE. SINCE  
COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES CAN HOLD A SUSPECT UP TO 72  
HOURS IN SOME INSTANCES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO CLASSIFY  
THESE CASES AS CLEAR EXAMPLES OF ARBITRARY ARREST AND  
DETEISION.

5. THE PRECEDING CRITICISM, AS IN THE PAST,  
REFLECTS AN ABERRATION, NOT A POLICY. COSTA RICA'S  
RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUES TO BE LAUDATORY.  
TODMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SANJO01374  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760102-0185  
**From:** SAN JOSE  
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**Office:** ACTION DHA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 45319, 76 SAN JOSE A-20  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <30 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 1976 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING REQUIREMENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PORG, SHUM, CS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006